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Meehan's Garden Bulletin

FEBRUARY, 1912



One of the most beautiful of our tall-growing shrubs, *Chionanthus virginica*. Is it any wonder it receives the common name of White Fringe? Note the profusion of bloom on a small plant. The foliage is particularly fine, being a rich, deep green.

Published Monthly
by

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Nurserymen and Horticulturists Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

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On all properties, large or small, there is some room at least where a group or border of flowering shrubs will greatly improve appearances. Lift your grounds from the commonplace by planting some of our bushy shrubs on them.

Splendid Groups of Large, Flowering Shrubs

ARE you in need of some flowering shrubs? Would you like to start with fine, big, bushy plants, above the average in size, vigor and quality?

At this time we have some exceptionally fine plants of this character which will produce quick results. For good reasons we are more anxious to sell this stock than to make a proper profit. When stating that each of the plants should bring at least double, we are not varying one particle from the truth.

The sacrifice pays us in some ways. We aim to pick them out so as to allow the remaining stock more room to develop into high-priced specimens.

This stock is above the ordinary in desirable qualities. It is just the kind we would use on our own lawn, if we were planting one. The plants are good in every respect, strong, thrifty, well-developed specimen bushes, of the class of which any one could well feel proud.

These are suitable for creating immediate effects. They are adapted for use as single specimens on a lawn or for planting in shrub borders. From 10 to 15 square feet of space can be nicely occupied by each of them.

Though large, they are thrifty, well-rooted and will transplant with ease.

12 Big Shrubs \$5.00

A fine group of vigorous shrubs which will give flowers at different periods from spring until fall.

Well suited for grouping along a border, in lots of two or three, or used as individual specimens.

Here is the list—the group well worth \$7.00 instead of \$5.00.

- 1 White Van Houttei Spiraea 3-4 ft.
- 1 Japanese Styx 3-4 ft.
- 2 Red Indian Currant 3-4 ft.
- 1 Meehans' Variegated Althaea 4-5 ft.
- 2 Spiraea Billardi 5-6 ft.
- 1 Panicked Dogwood Shrub 3-4 ft.
- 1 Burning Bush 3-4 ft.
- 2 Old-fashioned Snowball 3-4 ft.
- 1 Hungarian Lilac 3-4 ft.

25 Big Shrubs \$10.00

A golden opportunity for anyone who can use 25 shrubs.

All are large, well-developed plants, having good roots and vigorous branches.

The group is easily worth \$13.50.

- 2 Meehans' Variegated Althaea 4-5 ft.
- 3 Old-fashioned Snowball 3-4 ft.
- 2 European Burning Bush 3-4 ft.
- 2 White Spiraea Van Houttei 3-4 ft.
- 1 Japanese Styx 3-4 ft.
- 2 Spiraea Billardi 5-6 ft.
- 3 Indian Currant 3-4 ft.
- 2 Panicked Shrub Dogwood 3-4 ft.
- 2 Bright Green Shrub Aralia 5-6 ft.
- 3 Rose of Sharon, assorted 3-4 ft.
- 1 Deutzia crenata 5-6 ft.
- 2 Hungarian Lilac 3-4 ft.

The Shrub-Perennial Combination Offer—\$15.00

THE continual demand from our customers for shrubs and perennials to form a border of pleasing appearance, where flowers may be had all season, has prompted this offer, which is suitable for a border, 5 to 6 feet deep and about 50 to 60 feet long.

As a background we furnish 15 well assorted shrubs from 3 to 6 feet high,—shrubs that bring a floral display not only in April or May, but throughout the season, and as a border to these and to finish off the bed, we will add 115 hardy perennials and flowering bulbs.

The combined collection we offer for **\$15.00.**

Thomas Meehan & Sons, Germantown, Phila., Pa.

Meehan's Garden Bulletin

VOL. 3

Subscription 50 Cents a Year

FEBRUARY, 1912

No. 6

Single Copies 5 Cents

Attractive Fruiting Plants

Winter Effects and a Comparison

EDWIN MATTHEWS.

HAVE you ever noticed in plant life that where a plant is not endowed with flowers of rich coloring, attractive to the eye, or possesses not the subtle fragrance that appeals at once to the sense of smell, nature has invariably crowned it with some quality that will bring it into prominence at some time during the cycle of the year?

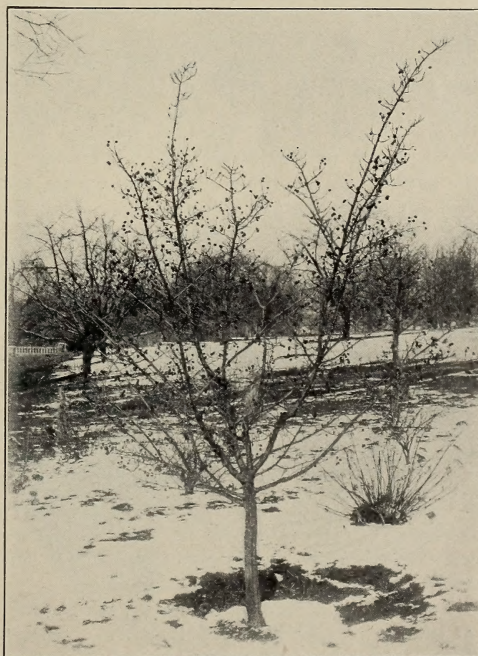
As an example, who would give even a passing glance to the flowers of the *Ilex verticillata*. Deciduous Holly? Few people, indeed, with this plant in their collection can recall ever having seen its flowers perhaps. This is, however, excusable, as the floral envelopes of the plant are the least conspicuous part of it, especially in view of the fact that there are so many other plants of floral merit to attract attention at that time.

At this writing, January, when winter has a firm grip on the land, these latter plants, which once claimed our attention, have become uninteresting items compared with the beautiful clusters of scarlet berries of the erstwhile inconspicuous Holly, the fruits of which are cheerfully persistent long after its leaves have withered in the frost.

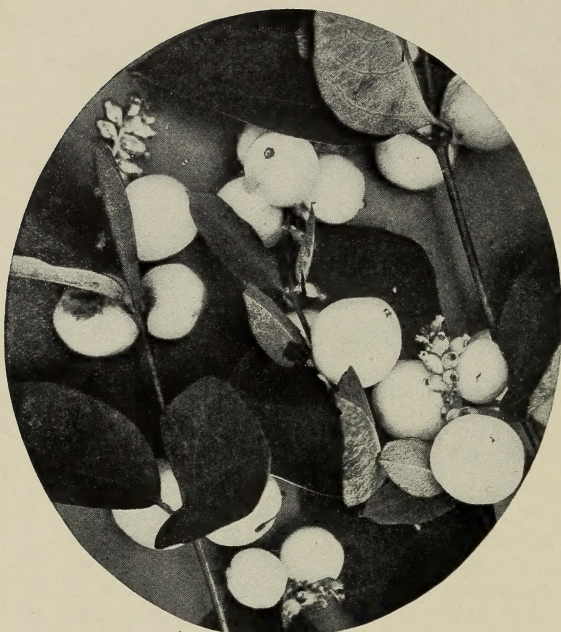
It is not the roses whose flowers are the cynosure of the garden that give us in winter a wealth of brightly colored fruits. This is left to the plain single Rose, the Wild Rose and Briar, to accomplish. The floral day of these plants soon passed and was barely noticed, yet in nature's own way it was sufficient to bring this climax and a recognition of its beauty when in fruit.

To-day I saw the firm red fruits of one of the single roses encased in a thick coating of clear ice, which, in the sunlight, made them quite opalescent.

How beautiful are the large red fruits of *Rosa rugosa* in late fall and early winter, together with the gold and green of its foliage! True, its fruits are not so persistent as those of *Rosa multiflora*, *R. carolina*, *R. setigera* and *R. blanda*, but it makes up for this in intensity. It is surely a plant that cannot be overestimated in its worth for garden adornment.



The rich red fruit of *Crataegus Carrierei*, clustering the bare branches like so many rich jewels. Summer flowers are by no means the only joy.



The pure white, fleshy berries of the Snowberry are showy in the Autumn and early Winter. Plant with them the Indian Currant and get contrast in color.

Too little use is made of the exceedingly pretty *Callicarpa purpurea*. There is little in the close axillary clusters of small white flowers to foretell the beauty of the plant in fall and early winter, when its berries are ripe. The color of the latter is unique, being a violet or mauve, and they are borne in great numbers all along the numerous branches. It is noticeable that the best fruit is that borne on the young wood, so it would be an advantage to prune the plant a little each spring to ensure strong and long, arching branches.

On account of the showy fruits of *Symphoricarpos racemosus* and *S. vulgaris*, these, "The Snowberries," are liberally used in large plantings. Both are persistent; the latter, *vulgaris*, Red Snowberry, often carries its berries throughout the winter months in good condition, and it is extremely effective in contrast to winter's snows. The former is seen at its best in early winter, before the pure white fruits shrivel and discolor from extreme cold and exposure.

Two plants that force attention at this time of the year are the American and Japanese Bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens* and *C. articulatus*. No one seeing the plants in summer would suppose they would clothe themselves as they do

with such beauty. It is to be regretted that the accompanying illustration fails to show clearly the masses of orange-scarlet fruits borne on the plant of *C. articulatus*. The picture was taken January 5th and directly after a snowstorm. It is easily imagined how warm and cheerful the plant looked among its surroundings.

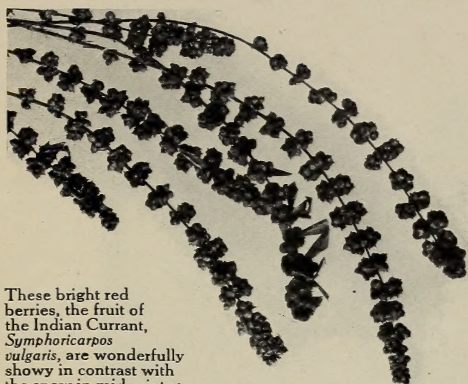
The yellow capsule or outside covering of the fruits combine well with the red-coated seeds revealed within. Both plants resemble each other closely. The American species is perhaps the stronger grower of the two and bears larger fruits, but not so numerous. The very best place for them is a rustic trellis, tree trunk or low stone wall, where the plants can trail with freedom.

The Barberries are a class of plants that have come into well deserved popularity in later years. The little *Berberis Thunbergii*, loved by everyone, is now frequently used as a hedge plant in addition to its use in groups and masses. Even amid a wealth of autumn color of other plants it surpasses in brightness almost anything among dwarf shrubs.

Large groups of it in the foreground of a mixed planting, where evergreens are present, make it richly conspicuous in leaf and berry. The latter is very persistent and of a coral red color, and, arranged as they are amongst the spiny and twiggy growth, they are well protected from the birds, should they desire them.



These bright red berries are wonderfully showy, especially in late Summer and Autumn. *Viburnum opulus* or High Bush Cranberry.



These bright red berries, the fruit of the Indian Currant, *Symphoricarpos vulgaris*, are wonderfully showy in contrast with the snow in mid-winter.

The stronger and higher growing *Berberis vulgaris* will do well even under adverse conditions, withstanding drought better than most plants. Its fruit, too, will hang on even after they shrivel from extreme cold.

Unquestionably the Rose family is very rich in ornamental fruiting plants. Apart from the type of the order (the Roses themselves), we have among the Hawthorns some real good material to secure us fine winter effects. The most persistent of them, providing the birds do not molest them, are *Crataegus cordata*, Washington Thorn; *C. Carrieri*, *C. Crus-galli*, Cockspur Thorn, and *C. Oxyacantha*, English Hawthorn.

The photograph herewith given is of a well fruited tree of *C. Carrieri*. Its fruits were in first-rate condition at the time this picture was taken, middle of January. Standing near this plant, but not shown in the picture, is an exceedingly pretty, well berried plant of the Fire Thorn, *Crataegus Pyracantha*, sometimes called Evergreen Thorn.

Very persistent are its orange-red fruits, nestling among the almost evergreen foliage.

Unfortunately a good enough picture for reproduction was not secured. Many of our readers will know this plant, however, especially those who have visited English gardens, where it is used freely, and where it flourishes and fruits very much more than in this country.

For gardens south of Washington, D. C., this thorn is a valuable plant for winter effect. Plant in groups and afford a sheltered position.

How little we see of those pretty foliage and fruiting plants, the Cotoneasters, three or four kinds of which have proven hardy in this latitude.

The trailing and rather low-growing kinds, like

C. prostrata, *C. horizontalis*, *C. buxifolia* and *C. microphylla* are splendid subjects for the rock garden. Trailing over ledges of rocks, they afford a most charming fall and winter effect, with the small, glossy leaves acting as a foil for the numerous scarlet berries. Of the higher growing kinds *C. Simonsii* has been found a very satisfactory plant in this country. Its fruits are larger than those of the dwarfer kinds, and show up to advantage in company with evergreens. The soil and position for the Cotoneaster should be well drained and somewhat protected, the plant being rather impatient of too much moisture around the root in winter, and dislikes very much blustering, life-sapping winds.

Several of the *Viburnums* are valued for their berry display in the fall. Only one, however, retains its fruit well into winter. This one is *V. opulus*, known as High-bush Cranberry. Its blood-red berries are yet to be seen hanging on the plant, a little shriveled, of course, but having sufficient color in them to brighten an otherwise ungainly plant.

We have already spoken of the Hollies, but mentioned only one species, *Ilex verticillata*.

Beautiful as this is, it will not compare with the rich combination of leafage and fruit given us by the American and English Hollies, *Ilex opaca* and *Ilex Aquifolium*. The unique foliage of these two plants lends beauty to the scarlet berries that lie half revealed and half concealed among

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)



It is too bad that the thousands of showy, orange-scarlet berries on this plant of *Lycium articulatus* cannot be shown here in their natural colors.



This handsome specimen of *Cedrus Atlantica glauca* stands on the grounds of Mrs. A. A. Anderson, Greenwich, Conn., and was photographed about 12 years ago. No doubt by this time it has almost doubled in size.

Cedar of Lebanon *

STANLEY V. WILCOX.

CEDAR of Lebanon! How familiar a phrase this is, and yet how few are acquainted with this famous tree! Regard its wide-spreading, majestic appearance, and know that it can be grown in our Northern States.

All trees are interesting from one viewpoint or another, the sturdy Oak tree in comparison with the tiny acorn, the striking effect of the towering Tulip Poplar, the dome-like Beech, with lower branches directly on the ground. Not another tree, however, holds our attention and interest in so many ways as does this Cedar. From both a historical and a botanical standpoint it is known and revered.

From its historical associations the Cedar of Lebanon is perhaps best known. This is largely due to its connection with the building of the great Temple of King Solomon, and to the fact that it was used in the songs and poetry of the Old Testament as a symbol of happiness, stability, beauty, etc.

Its native habitat is "The mountains of Syria and Asia Minor, especially Lebanon and that portion of the Tauric range which extends through Cilicia." Here the trees grew and flourished remarkably. King Solomon placed it at the head of the vegetable kingdom, and not only his Temple, but also his house and chariot, were built of its timbers.

The secretions of the tree were made use of by the famous Egyptian embalmers, they using the whitish resin in preserving the dead. These secretions were supposed to contain other remarkable properties. In Veitch's Manual we read, "The wood of the Cedar is also said to contain a volatile essential oil which has the peculiar property of unsettling printers' ink and making it run."

It has been definitely determined, from close inspection of the wood, that the famous "Tree of Life" of the Babylonians was the Cedar of Lebanon. It is a remarkable coincidence that a tree we shall speak of later, the Deodar Cedar,

was held in veneration by the Hindus, and worshipped as the "Tree of Life." The longevity of the tree evidently caused the popular assumption that it did not die from natural causes. It is estimated that the average age of the Cedar of Lebanon was from six to eight hundred years.

From the standpoint of the botanist and horticulturist, the tree has always been an interesting subject. Although this distinctive appearing tree differs greatly in habit of growth from other conifers, it has not been recognized as a true genus by many botanists. We find it now under the Genus *Cedrus*, and this is the true Cedar. Many other trees are known by the name Cedar. In fact, to some all evergreens are Cedars. The tree of the large cedar swamps in New England is the common American Arbor-vitæ (*Thuja occidentalis*). The name, Red Cedar, is common to all, and this is applied to *Juniperus Virginiana*. This tree is widely distributed and is, perhaps, the best known tree bearing the name of Cedar.

Still another is the White Cedar of the Eastern States, now called *Cupressus Thuyoides*. A closely allied tree is the Yellow Cedar or Nootka Sound Cypress.

Distinctly different, as we have said, is the Cedar of Lebanon, and when the tree has attained height and size to show its characteristics it is difficult to confuse it with other evergreens. Many conifers grow conically until they reach mature height, and then they start to go back. Such kinds are rarely long-lived. Others make large, lateral branches, these often becoming as large as the trunk of the conical class. The heads are then comparatively flat, and this is the characteristic appearance of the Cedar of Lebanon. A French writer has likened the appearance of a huge specimen to "Some giant negro carrying a great umbrella."

In England many estates boast of handsome specimens of great age. It is uncertain as to just what date the tree was introduced, but it is computed to have been about 1650. Most of the trees planted have grown and thrived where the



A young specimen of Cedar of Lebanon, *Cedrus Libani*. This specimen is in Fairmount Park, Phila., and was photographed some years ago.

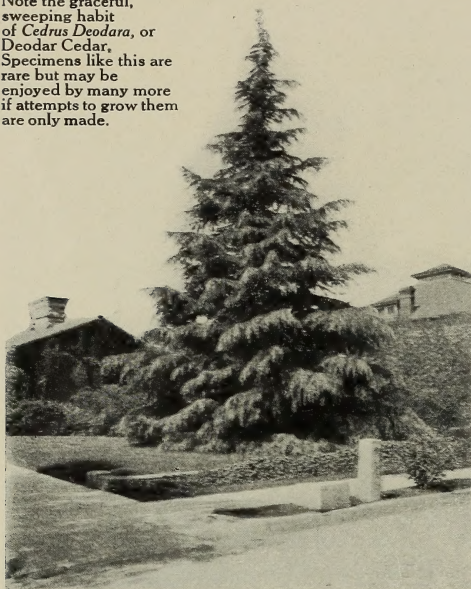
position was at all favorable. In America a number of trees were planted soon after the Revolution by Philip Livingston on his estates near New York City. These trees were brought direct from Palestine. In 1894 Clarence Mitchell, owner of the estate at that time, reported that the trees were still healthy and growing, where sheltered from the northern and easterly winds.

There are some large trees in the vicinity of Philadelphia in healthy condition and that have been producing cones for the last thirty years. At Germantown, near Philadelphia, a tree planted in 1872 is now 60 feet high. The average growth of this tree has been about two feet a year. The tree is supplied with plenty of food and water and is in a well drained place. These are essentials to the best results.

About Philadelphia the foliage of the trees is sometimes injured by the winter, but the wood is not. This causes the leaves to fall as soon as the sap starts to run in the spring. It is one of the first trees to put forth its new growth.

It is hard to understand why such an interest-

Note the graceful, sweeping habit of *Cedrus Deodara*, or Deodar Cedar. Specimens like this are rare but may be enjoyed by many more if attempts to grow them are only made.



ing tree has had such little attention from present-day planters.

In the famous Laurel Hill Cemetery, near Philadelphia, two handsome Cedars of Lebanon are to be seen. These flourish on the eastern side of a hill that slopes gently to the river edge. Here, in this beautiful City of the Dead, these venerable specimens of the "Tree of Life" stand out clear and bold. Should we not advocate its more frequent use for cemetery planting?

Two other specimens of the Cedar, *Cedrus Atlantica* and *Cedrus Deodara*, are of about equal hardiness, and are gradually finding their way into our specimen plantings.

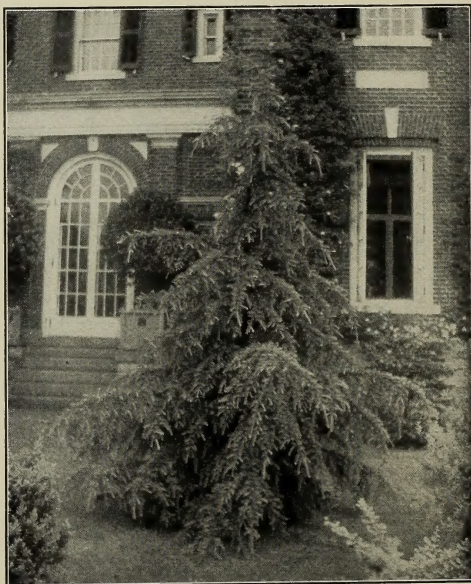
Cedrus Atlantica is the Mount Atlas Cedar from the Atlas Mountains, in Northern Africa. The branches are shorter and the leaves shorter and thicker than the Cedar of Lebanon. There is not a great deal of difference, however, among any of three Cedars, and they are classed by some botanists as merely geographical varieties. From this standpoint, too, they form an interesting study. Veitch says, "The geographical distribution of the Cedars is remarkable. They are confined to three separate regions in the great mountain chains that cross the eastern continent between latitude 28° and 35° N., with but little interruption from the Atlantic Ocean to the Chinese Sea. The three species, if species they are, occupy positions barely equidistant, the Cedar

of Lebanon being in the middle, with the Himalayan Cedar (*C. Deodara*) and the Mount Atlas Cedar (*C. Atlantica*) east and west of it respectively, and separated from it by an interval of from 1200 to 1400 miles. Their habitat is thus restricted to a portion of a zone, the limits of which are included within 7° or 8° of latitude."

In ornamental plantings the Blue Mountain Atlas Cedar (*C. Atlantica glauca*) is mostly used. This beautiful evergreen is of about the same color as the Colorado Blue Spruce. It is of fairly quick growth, more so than the Cedar of Lebanon, and should be included in every large evergreen planting.

Cedrus Deodara is the sacred tree of the Hindus, and is found in large forests on the slopes of the Himalayas. It is a remarkably long-lived tree, 750 to 900 years, and of immense size. It is more graceful and beautiful in its young state than the *C. Libani*. The species is a very adaptable one to soils and climates, although these affect its growth and appearance in a large measure. The timber of this species is strong and durable, and is preferred by the natives of the Himalayas to all other woods. It is recorded that timber of the Deodar used in a building erected A. D. 1560 was taken down after

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



A blue foliated variety of *Cedrus Deodara*, resembling in color the *C. Atlantica glauca*.

Timely Hints for the Intending Planter

Plant early; just as soon as the soil is free from frost and superfluous moisture. By so doing, your stock has a greater chance to become somewhat established before hot, dry weather arrives.

Well cultivate the soil where possible, in preparation for the plants. It pays to have the soil well pulverized; it comes into closer contact with the roots.

If stock be received in a frozen condition it should not be thawed out too quickly. Place in a cool, dark shed, where the plants will gradually assume a normal condition. Never thaw the roots of a tree by exposure to air, or it will more than likely die. Cover the roots with soil and no harm will result.

If the stock is received apparently dry, well moisten the whole package or bale and immerse the roots in muddy water before planting.

Prune wisely; that is, be governed by the quantity of the roots. If the plant has abundant roots a little cutting back only is needed, and *vice versa*. Soft-wooded plants can stand much more cutting back than hard-wooded ones.

Avoid having a newly transplanted tree sway in the wind. If allowed to do so air spaces are formed around the roots and necessary contact with the soil is lost. Firm planting ought to suffice, but a strong stake may be used, or, if the tree be a large one, bracing with three wires should be resorted to (fasten wire to the tree with rubber hose or straw bands to prevent the wire from injuring the trunk), and attach the wire to strong, wedge-like stakes driven into the ground at equal distance apart around the tree.

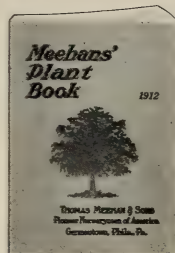
When trees are planted in the fall, a good mound of earth around the trunk is good, both as a means to prevent swaying and as a protection.

Mulching of newly transplanted stock, whether in fall or spring, is good. It conserves moisture in seasons of drought.

Manure (except well decomposed) should not be placed next to the roots. Not only is there a likelihood of it burning the roots, but it allows air spaces to form around them. Good planting consists in having the soil in the closest contact with each root and root fiber.

If the soil is at all dry, and it is light enough to settle, give a thorough soaking with water before entirely filling in the hole. This is equivalent to ramming or packing to get a perfect union between roots and soil.

The watering of trees and shrubs in seasons



Meehans' Plant Book

for 1912 is ready

This plant book is a most valuable one, the result of careful compilation from previous catalogues and our long experience as nurserymen as well. In the early autumn it was first issued and that edition completely exhausted within three days. The second edition is ready and we have sufficient copies to satisfy all demands. This book is for the use of the home garden owner who is unacquainted with the plants most commonly used in lawn and garden planting. It is not an exhaustive treatise on plants nor does it begin to list the thousands we have growing in our nurseries.

If you feel the need for this book we shall be glad to send you a copy.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

PURE FERTILIZERS

FOR THE LAWN AND GARDEN

Your lawn and garden yearly need food to produce the results you want.

In getting this food, see that it is of the best

Our Wood Ashes and Bone Meal are pure unadulterated, and will give the maximum results.

MEEHANS' PURE BONE MEAL

25 lbs.	\$.75	100 lbs.	\$ 2.00
50 lbs.	1.25	1 ton (2000 lbs.)	32.00
1 ton, delivered locally			34.00

MEEHANS' UNLEACHED HARDWOOD ASHES

50 lbs.	\$ 1.00	1 bbl. (200 lbs.)	\$ 2.75
100 lbs.	1.50	1000 lbs.	11.00
1 ton (2000 lbs.)	22.00;	delivered locally	24.00

We can quote very low rates on carload lots.

Quantity Required.—One pound for each 10 square feet; 1½ to 2 tons to the acre.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



THE GRACEFUL Japanese Narrow-leaved Rush

Eulalia Japonica gracillima

Of all the beautiful Eulalias—the hardy grasses most commonly planted for ornamental purposes—this narrow-leaved variety is the most graceful and pleasing in appearance. The very narrow foliage grows with considerable vigor, and is graceful and artistic to a degree. The rich deep-green leaves are effective from the time the growth comes up in the Spring until Jack Frost turns the fluffy plumes a light brown in the Autumn.

Used as a single clump, in masses, or as a hedge, it is really one of the very finest for general purposes.

To see these grasses along the margin of a stream is to appreciate one good use to which they may be put.

Our plants are extremely fine and may be had in all sizes. From the large sized clumps immediate results are procurable.

6-inch clumps, size usually sold
25c each, 10 for \$2.00, 25 for \$4.50

10-inch clumps, extra
50c each, 10 for \$4.00, 25 for \$9.00

15 to 18-inch XX clumps
\$1.00 each (easily worth \$1.75)
10 for \$9.00, 25 for \$20.00

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS

Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

of drought may seem a simple matter, but if not applied in the right way it is worse than none at all. Applied to the plant in a superficial manner, it encourages surface rooting, and if these feeding roots are not protected from the hot, burning rays of the sun they are withered and the plant suffers considerably in consequence. Where watering is resorted to, the surface soil should be removed, so as to form a basin around the trunk. When the water has thoroughly saturated the ground put back the soil removed, and keep the surface well cultivated afterward, or mulch with half decayed leaves or manure. One good watering in this manner is worth more than a score of surface applications.

Constant cultivation in dry weather will do away with much irrigation.

E. MATTHEWS.

Seasonable Notes

Has next summer's garden been well planned yet? Now is a good time to plan it out, and to order the seeds, plants and trees to be used.

Preparation for spraying the orchard next spring should be made now. Sprayers and materials may be bought, and a study of methods of application made.

The Park Commissioners of Syracuse, N. Y., have given instructions to cut down every poplar tree in the city, on account of the damage to drain-pipes, sewers, etc., caused by the roots of the trees.

Rhubarb which was dug and allowed to freeze last fall may now be put in a box and covered with two or three inches of soil, watered and set in a warm place in the dark. Edible shoots will soon spring from these roots. By growing it in the dark the leaves are kept small.

BEAUTIFUL Japanese Hydrangeas

We are enthusiastic about these beautiful Hydrangeas and you would be too if you had some on your grounds.

They are not the common white Hydrangea or the pink and blue kinds so frequently grown in pots and tubs.

These are distinctive and that is one of their charms.

Unlike other Hydrangeas, the heads of flowers are flat, not panicked, and the individual blossoms come sterile in the center with showy marginal sepals which are much larger.

The color of these heads of flowers varies from rich blue to shades of light red shading to plum.

The foliage is a splendid, rich green and comes out abundantly each season, remaining attractive until killed by frosts.

During the winter a little attention in the way of protection to the branches will reward one by a wealth of bloom the entire year, as the blossoms appear on the old wood.

The many good uses to which these plants may be put is another great merit.

They prefer a little shade, thriving in such a position. Porch beds usually require such plants. Along the sea-coast is another location where the best results are secured.

Do not attempt to grow them in cold, exposed positions. They will not succeed.

At this time we have a superb stock of fine plants. You will get results from them at once.

Order early.

	Each	Per 10	Per 25
2-year plants	\$0.25	\$2.00	\$3.75
3-year plants . . . . .	.35	2.50	5.00
4-year plants . . . . .	.50	3.50	6.25
5-year plants, extra fine	.75	5.00	10.00

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS

Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

CHILEAN NITRATE OF SODA PROPAGANDA

WILLIAM S. MYERS, D. SC., F. C. S.

DIRECTOR FOR THE UNITED STATES AND ITS COLONIES

SEVENTEEN MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

DIRECTIONS FOR USING NITRATE OF SODA ON LAWNS AND GRASSES

As soon as the frost leaves the ground in the Spring, apply the Nitrate of Soda by broadcasting it evenly, by hand, or by machine, over the entire surface of the lawn, or meadow you are fertilizing, at the rate of 100 pounds per acre.

As Nitrate is a Powerful Plant Tonic and Energizer—it is NOT a stimulant in any sense of the word—a very small quantity does a very large amount of work. The quantity to be used per acre, although seemingly small, will be adequate to make a very striking development in color, and increase in the amount of grass produced. Meadow should be evenly Top Dressed by broadcasting the Nitrate as soon as the crop starts to grow in the Spring, or when the frost has left the ground.

We never recommend the use of Nitrate of Soda alone for Lawns and Grasses, except at the rate of not more than one hundred (100) pounds to the acre, when it may be used without other fertilizers. This rate you will generally find profitable for the seeded crops. If it be desired to invest in larger amounts of Nitrate by using heavier applications per acre, the use of Potash Salts and Phosphates is also recommended. The use of Nitrate will be found quite satisfactory, moreover, in its after-effect in perceptibly sweetening sour land. Nitrate works itself into the ground soon after broadcasting, as a rule. One hundred pounds of Nitrate is equal in bulk to about one bushel.

Should the Nitrate become hard, it can be readily pulverized with the back of a shovel, or with a mallet.

On the Pacific Coast, Nitrate may be applied as a Top-Dressing after the heavy Spring rains are over, but before crops attain much of a start; although recent experience there suggests that Nitrate may be applied to better advantage just as soon as growth starts in the Spring, or even before seeding, or planting, followed by a good cultivation for crops which are to be hoed, or tilled, and for seeded crops, a thorough preparation of the soil in advance.

George Thomas, Cumming's Bridge, Ottawa:

"Plot with Nitrate produced 185 lbs. Hay—equal to 4,625 lbs. per acre.

Plot without Nitrate produced 135 lbs. Hay—equal to 3,375 lbs. per acre."

E. B. Strong, Cauming, Novia Scotia:

"Plot with Nitrate produced 91 lbs. Hay—equal to 2,275 lbs. per acre.

Plot without Nitrate produced 68 lbs. Hay—equal to 1,700 lbs. per acre."

"Much pleased with results."

T. E. Smith, Central Clarence, Nova Scotia.

"Plot with Nitrate produced 200 lbs. Hay—equal to 5,000 lbs. per acre.

Plot without Nitrate produced 125 lbs. Hay—equal to 3,125 lbs. per acre."

"Also used Nitrate on an old sod, which increased crop 1,000 to 1,200 pounds per acre. Could see marked improvement in sward after hay was cut. Nitrate also encouraged growth of Timothy to the detriment of weeds and other grasses."

F. E. Kerr, Strawn, Pa.:

"Plot with Nitrate produced 225 lbs.—equal to 5,625 lbs. per acre.

Plot without Nitrate produced 140 lbs.—equal to 3,500 lbs. per acre."

LAWNS AND GRASSES
DIRECTIONS

Culture of Raspberries

It is a common thing to see Raspberry canes after the fruit is gathered left standing until winter, and then cut away. The best amateur gardeners cut out the canes of last year as soon as possible after the fruit is gathered. This gives an opportunity for the canes for next year to grow more vigorously and to more advantage. In addition to this, a number of the canes should be cut away, so as to leave for fruiting next year only those that we wish to carry the crop for the coming season.

SPRING SPECIALTY PLANT BOOK

Floral illustrations in colors. Many attractive plant offers. Send for a free copy. Still some left.

Cedar of Lebanon

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

225 years and found so little impaired that it was used in the construction of another house.

While, as has been said, these three species differ very little from a strictly botanical standpoint, they are in appearance, habit, etc., quite distinct, and each has its own importance and place in ornamental tree plantings.

The Cedars are all more or less fond of company and succeed best in group plantings.

It is interesting to note that of the celebrated groves of the Cedar on Mount Lebanon only a few now remain. These have been gone over several times and the trees individually recorded.



MAGNOLIAS

The Harbingers of Spring

To have a lawn without at least one Magnolia on it, is to live without the pleasure of welcoming the coming of Spring. Is there a group of flowering plants as closely linked with Spring as Magnolias? We think not.

Just now our stock of the following kinds is excellent. Not only are the plants of good size, but we lift them very carefully, thus removing almost all risk of death in transplanting.

Decide to plant out a group of them or at least get one, if limited space prevent the other course.

Dwarf Star-flowered Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*)
Almost covering the plants with its shower of blossoms, this beautiful dwarf, bushy-growing Magnolia is one of the most ornamental. The flowers are tinted pink in bud, opening pure white and are delicately scented. These plants of ours we will match with any in the country as being superior.

Purple Magnolia (*Magnolia purpurea*)
Somewhat shrub-like in habit. Produces purple blossoms after many kinds are through flowering. Not hardy in the extreme north.

Pink Magnolia (*Magnolia Soulangeana*)
This well-known, large-flowered, light pink Magnolia needs no description. It is seen in almost every garden of any size or consequence. Our plants are grand.

White, Sweet-scented Magnolia (*Magnolia conspicua* or *Yulan*)
The pure white, waxy blossoms of this beautiful Magnolia are known to all plant lovers, though not as common as the pink variety. They exhale a most delicious fragrance when the tree is covered with blossoms in April.

SIZES and PRICES of above varieties. Splendid plants from 1½ to 12 feet high, price \$1.00 up to \$5.00 each.

A QUARTETTE OF FINE MAGNOLIAS
You will never regret planting some Magnolias on your home grounds. Let us send you one of each of the four kinds of Magnolias listed above.

1 White, Sweet-scented Magnolia, 5 to 6 ft.	1 Purple Magnolia, . . . 3 to 3½ ft.
1 Pink Magnolia, . . . 4½ to 5 ft.	1 Dwarf Star-flowered Magnolia, 2½ to 3 ft.

The above Sterling group for \$10.00

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Phila., Pa.

The True Passion Flower

(*Passiflora incarnata*)

The delicate beauty and wonderful construction of this famous flower can only be fully appreciated when actually seen.

It is a vine easily grown when young, vigorous plants such as we now have are secured.

If covered well in the winter the roots will come up again the following season.

Tell us to send you some this Spring and become familiar with one of nature's most wonderful flowers.

We have not a great quantity in stock.

**Strong, pot-grown plants, 25c each
(postpaid 30c) 10 for \$2.00**

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



The Showy New England Aster

Which Comes Before the Frost

Plant Aster Novae-Angliae where you seek a showy Fall display. The large single blossoms of violet purple are borne in profusion.

An old-fashioned but still favorite plant for autumnal effects.

Does well in a variety of garden soils, moist or dry, as the case may be.

We have some splendid plants suitable for immediate results.

15c each, 10 for \$1.20, 25 for \$2.50.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Lengthening of Tree Trunks

It is a general impression among those not familiar with botanical gardening that the trunks of trees lengthen, but this is not the case. The trunk of a tree, being once formed, does not lengthen a fraction, no matter if it lives to a hundred years. A branch from a trunk that is now, say, six feet from the ground, will have the center of the branch still six feet from the ground, no matter how many years elapse. If branches are, therefore, now too low they had better be cut off at once. Again, it is worth remembering, in cutting off branches, that they should always be cut close to the trunk or to any main branch, so that the wound may heal over. If the branch is very large, so that the wound is likely to take several years to heal over, it is better to paint it, in order to keep the water from rotting the wood, until it is properly healed. More good trees are spoiled through leaving an inch or two of stump to a cut-off branch than people have any idea of.

Planting Fruit Trees

A continual caution is kept before planters to look out particularly for an abundance of fibrous roots. It should not be forgotten that fibers are only annual; they serve as feeders for the year, and at the end of the year die away just as leaves do. Among these fibers a very small proportion become permanent roots. It should be a much greater care to have plants with an abundance of two- or three-year-old roots, which are young, active and vigorous, than mere fibers. If this is understood, all right; but very often the worst thing a tree can have is too many fibers. When overabundant they prevent the earth from getting near the active roots, and as they die away before the season is over, they make a vacuum which is of no value whatever to the plant. The earth should be packed in tight around the energetic roots, and not merely around the small fibers. In regard to the ever-green trees, it is a common thing to have transplanted Hemlock Spruce, Norway Spruce and other similar plants with a very large mass of fibers, die. The reason is the one we have already given, that so dense a mass prevents the earth from getting around the real roots, that should be properly so called. It may be again impressed in a brief paragraph that what is wanted is an abundance of two- or three-year-old roots to a tree, and not mere annual fibers.

Mixed Lawn Grasses

A correspondent inquires whether there is any advantage over designated kinds of grass in using what is known as mixed lawn grasses. It is impossible for any person to tell what species of grass would make a good lawn in any one locality. The grass that will grow well on high, dry ground does not do well in low and moist places; others do best in shade, under trees, while others do better in the sun, out in the open. The advantage of mixed grasses is, that the kind best adapted to any special location eventually succeeds and crowds out those which are not fitted for the situation. We have seen, for instance, the Sheep Fescue grass, which loves to grow in comparatively dry places, drive out every other grass that competed with it under the shade of trees where the ground was dry. On the other hand, the different kinds of Bent grass, in heavy clay, will crowd out the others. It is better, therefore, to sow these mixtures, as the kind best adapted will eventually take possession of the whole lawn.

"I would not be without my copy of the Garden Bulletin."

This is just one among hundreds of complimentary expressions which are coming to us just now, as our readers renew their subscriptions for the coming year.

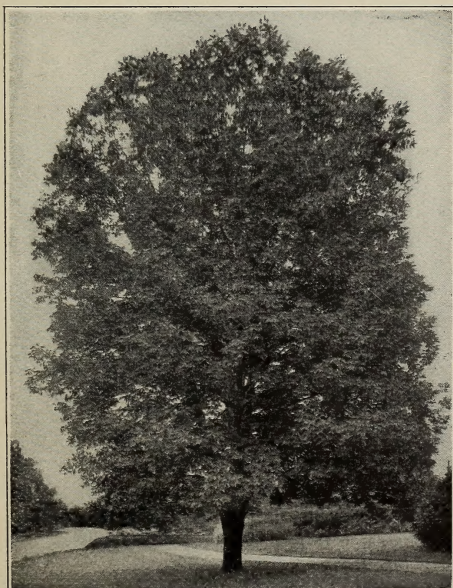
Are you a subscriber to the Bulletin? You should be if you own a garden or ever expect to.

There is more practical information in its pages than you'll find in many gardening papers in two numbers or more.

It's only **50 cents** a year. Decide to get it this year. You'll be well pleased with the investment.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Fine, Well-grown Ash Trees For Street, Avenue and Lawn Use



Here is shown the possibilities in using the American Ash. It seems to do well in poor soil, which is a good point to remember.

If you are looking for good, dependable trees for sidewalk, driveway or lawn use, use the Ash.

Ash trees are **quick growers, reasonable in price, symmetrical in form, pleasing foliage** and seem to thrive in a great variety of soils.

Where the situation is inclined to be moist they will prove very satisfactory.

Our trees this Spring are well-formed, full of vigor and will give quick and satisfactory results.

Autumn finds many of them displaying their foliage in glorious yellow shades.

You will not find the Ash trees bare of foliage in September, but in good form until October, sometimes November—thus prolonging their usefulness.

AMERICAN ASH. A fine, noble tree of good outline. The attractive light green foliage is silvery white on the underside.

8 to 10 feet, 1 to 1 1/4 inch caliper . . .	\$1.00 each
8 to 10 feet, 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inch caliper . . .	1.25 "
12 feet, 1 1/2 inch caliper	1.50 "
Specimens, 3 inch caliper	3.50 "

ENGLISH ASH. The rich green foliage of this Ash remains on until very late Autumn. It is not as open in growth as the American. A very fine tree.

8 to 10 feet, 1 to 1 1/4 inch caliper . . .	\$1.00 each
10 to 12 feet, 1 1/2 to 2 inch caliper . . .	1.50 "
12 to 14 feet, 2 to 2 1/2 inch caliper . . .	2.00 "

GREEN ASH. Good, bright green foliage and a close, round-headed tree of fine appearance.

10 to 12 feet, 1 1/2 inch caliper	\$1.50 each
12 to 14 feet, 2 inch caliper	2.00 "

SPECIAL. If you require five or more trees let us name you our special price.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Phila., Pa.

Honest Grass Seeds

Do you realize that when you buy lawn grass seed you are forced to accept the seedman's statements as to its purity and freshness?

Do you also know that about 90 per cent. of grass mixtures are sold by men who purchase them already mixed?

We were offered grass mixtures at very low figures, but on inquiry could not obtain a satisfactory report as to what they contained. That is why our Peerless Grass Mixture is distinct from all others.

Every ounce of **PEERLESS GRASS MIXTURE** is mixed in our own seed rooms from different kinds of grass seeds, all purchased separate and of the re-cleaned, extra fine quality.

No foreign material, sweepings or weed carrying mixtures creep in.

The real value of Peerless Mixture is further shown by the fact that 20 lbs. are contained in a bushel, to the usual 14 lbs. weight of the other mixtures.

Our seed is also fresh and mixed as sent out. It is not old seed of doubtful vitality.

The formula governing the mixing of our seed comes from tests made for some years and proven now to be the equal of any on the market.

The final reason why every careful buyer of grass seeds should take none but ours is the fact that our prices are favorable when compared to those of other mixtures. You get a known article at the price of a questionable mixture.

Meehans' Peerless Grass Mixture

1 quart	. . . . .	\$ .25
1 quart, postpaid	. . . . .	.30
1 bushel (20 lbs.)	. . . . .	5.50
5 bushel lots, per bushel	. . . . .	5.25
10 bushel lots, per bushel	. . . . .	5.00

Meehans' Shady Lawn Grass Seed

Like the Peerless brand, this is not bought already mixed, but follows a formula known to us to produce good results in shady positions.

The expensive varieties of grass seeds required to succeed in such positions accounts for the difference in price, which is reasonable compared to market quotations.

1 quart	. . . . .	\$ .35
1 quart, postpaid	. . . . .	.40
1 bushel (20 lbs.)	. . . . .	6.00
5 bushel lots, per bushel	. . . . .	5.75
10 bushel lots, per bushel	. . . . .	5.50

Quantity required—1 quart for 300 square feet. One acre requires 4 to 5 bushels.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Good Planting

It is not unusual to hear people say that they cannot understand why trees die under transplanting, considering that they give the planting the very best of care. What is considered the best of care is often very bad care. It is amazing to see the careful planter, without experience, occasionally on his knees pressing the earth in around the roots with his fingers, for fear of crushing the fibers. It is impossible to get the earth properly packed around roots in this way alone. In nurseries, where it is presumable planting is thoroughly understood, a man stands with a rammer while one is putting in the earth, and hammers the earth in as tightly as though he were hammering in a post. This packs the earth in more tightly than can be done by either feet or hands. Some are afraid of crushing the roots with this hammering process; but with the pressure all around, the force is directed toward the roots and not away from them. It is not necessary, however, to go into reasons, as the universal experience of the nurseryman is in favor of hammering in the earth as represented. This is the essence of good planting, and any other planting is decidedly bad. Trees properly planted seldom need staking. The fact that a tree needs staking is often a proof that it was not properly planted.

Frost and Flowers

One can scarcely imagine the delicate petals of a carnation or a rose withstanding the injury of a freezing temperature.

It has, however, been demonstrated that flowers that have frozen hard and thawed out gradually have continued to expand and seem little hurt by the experience.

The writer has often seen early flowers of the Daffodil caught by a severe frost, and, though the petals have frozen stiff, their beauty has not been impaired, provided the flowers were not exposed to the rays of direct sunlight. In the latter event the thawing process would be too rapid, and the cells of the petals ruptured, the whole flower becoming flaccid and useless.

The same thing applies to flowers of even more delicate texture.

Flowers of Chrysanthemums were imported to England from the Antipodes in a block of ice and subsequently exhibited in a normal state.

E. MATTHEWS.

Care of Currant Bushes

Currant bushes often seem to have a much looser growth than should be natural to them. When such weakened branches are cut across they will often be found hollow from the work of the currant stem borer. Before winter comes the larva crawls out and goes into the earth to undergo its transformation. If the affected branches be cut away and burned early in autumn the larvæ are destroyed. The puncture on the stem where the egg was deposited can easily be detected.

SPECIAL "CLEARANCE SALE" OFFER

A few blocks of plants must go,—we therefore have made some interesting offers. Only good during March. Send for offer.

Attractive Fruiting Plants

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

them. Both have been proven hardy in this latitude and for all gardens south of Philadelphia they should, of course, do better. Position and exposure have as much to do with their success as latitude.

Two foremost essentials are, first, plenty of moisture to the roots at all times; second, a position that is shaded from the extreme and direct sunlight and sheltered from cutting winds.

Other interesting persistent berry plants could be mentioned, but we have purposely omitted them, seeking rather to bring forward those which stand first in point of ornamental value to the landscape in winter.

Our Beautiful Specimen Trees of NATIVE SWEET GUMS are selling rapidly

At the rate they are going we shall soon have to report "all sold" on our specimen Sweet Gums, and as for getting others like them we do not know of a source.

Remember these trees are northern grown, frequently transplanted and so well developed their present form is decidedly pleasing.

One customer asks us to reserve 110 for him for planting along an avenue. What a sight these trees will produce, especially in the Autumn.

If you are not familiar with the Sweet Gum these facts will interest you.

The Sweet Gum may be looked upon as one of the best for sidewalk, avenue or lawn planting, and ideal for grouping at points for color effects in the autumn. At the seashore its value is also recognized. You surely know it by sight if not by name.

In Spring and Summer you may have admired those In Star-shaped, star-shaped leaves so rich and glossy, perfectly formed, all effect has impressed the tree on your but surely the Forest Keeler so aptly says in her book memory. As H. A. "The autumn coloring is not simply "Our Native Trees, Cotton." Every conceivable shade of flame, it is a conflagration, brown and almost black, also of color from crimson to bright shades of yellow.

In form the tree is symmetrical and pleasing to the eye, resembling the Pin Oak, somewhat, and will reach 40 feet or more ultimately. Thrives in high and low ground, has no insect or scale enemies to speak of, and is pleasing to look upon at all times. In winter the winged appearance of the corky bark is especially interesting. Buy trees growing in the north, they are more vigorous and dependable than those from southern localities.

ORDER NOW

We shall fill orders from now on consecutively, and hope we will not be compelled to disappoint.

Come out to our nurseries, if you live nearby, and see these trees. They bear out all our claims and more.

1½ to 2 inch caliper . . .	\$2.50 each
2 to 2½ " " . . .	3.50 "
2½ to 3 " " . . .	4.00 "
3 to 3½ " " . . .	4.50 "
A few extra specimens . . .	5.00 "

Where a quantity is wanted we can name special prices.

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



Superb Blood-Red Japanese Maples

This Spring we shall sell several large blocks of wonderfully fine Meehan-grown Japanese Maples, the equal of which cannot be found in another American nursery.

Imported Japanese Maples, though handled by a great many dealers, are not to be compared with home-grown stock.

We know, by experience, that it is impossible to buy at any price, plants that approach our home-grown stock.

Take these fine blocks from which we will sell this Spring, the plants in them are superb.

- Full and extremely bushy.
- Have been frequently transplanted.
- Are very well rooted.
- Fully acclimated.
- Far better color than the common stock.

Our broad, bushy Blood-leaved Maples are as full and bushy for their size as this specimen.

These points indicate as far as description can the superior quality there is in these Meehan-grown plants. You should, however, see these plants to really appreciate their great value. If you are near our nurseries this Spring, call and we will gladly show you the plants.

The rich, blood-red Japanese Maple should brighten every lawn and garden. It is so intense in color—especially in the strain we have, which has been commented on by many as being decidedly more intense in color than that of the ordinary stock. The vigor of our plants no doubt is the cause of this intensity of color.

As a single specimen, in groups of three or more, or grouped with other varieties,—in any case you get decidedly beautiful effects.

Decide now to get some beautiful plants, that cannot be surpassed in quality—at very reasonable prices.

ORDER EARLY—not after the season has advanced too far, as early planting of Japanese Maples is essential to good returns. Spring is the best season for planting all Japanese Maples.

Meehan-grown Blood-Red Japanese Maples

1 to 1½ ft.	\$1.00 each	5 for \$4.00	25 for \$16.00
1½ to 2 ft.	1.50 “	“ 6.25	“ 25.00
2 to 2½ ft. bushy	2.00 “	“ 7.50	“ 31.25
2½ to 3 ft. “	2.75 “	“ 10.00	“ 37.50
3 to 3½ ft. “	3.75 “	“ 15.00	“ 62.50
3½ to 4 ft. “	5.00 “	“ 20.00	“ 75.00
4 to 4½ ft. extra	\$6.50 each, 5 for \$25.00		
4½ to 5 ft. superb	\$8.00 to \$10.00 each		
Extra Specimens	\$12.00 each		

JAPANESE MAPLE COLLECTION

Very few people know the decidedly beautiful effects possible in combining various varieties of Japanese Maples in a group.

The crimsons, greens and yellows always harmonize. Set a group out on your lawn and you'll be delighted with the effect.

Here is a fine selection for the purpose:

2 Japanese Blood-leaved Maples	2	to 2½ ft.
1 Golden-leaved Japanese Maple	1½	to 2 ft.
1 Green Polymorphum Maple	3	to 4 ft.
2 Red Fern-leaved Japanese Maples	2	to 2½ ft.
1 Green Fern-leaved Japanese Maple	2	to 2½ ft.
1 Ivy-leaved Japanese Maple	2	to 3 ft.

These 8 fine well-developed specimens, from 1½ to 4 feet high, for **\$13.00**

THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Phila., Pa.

